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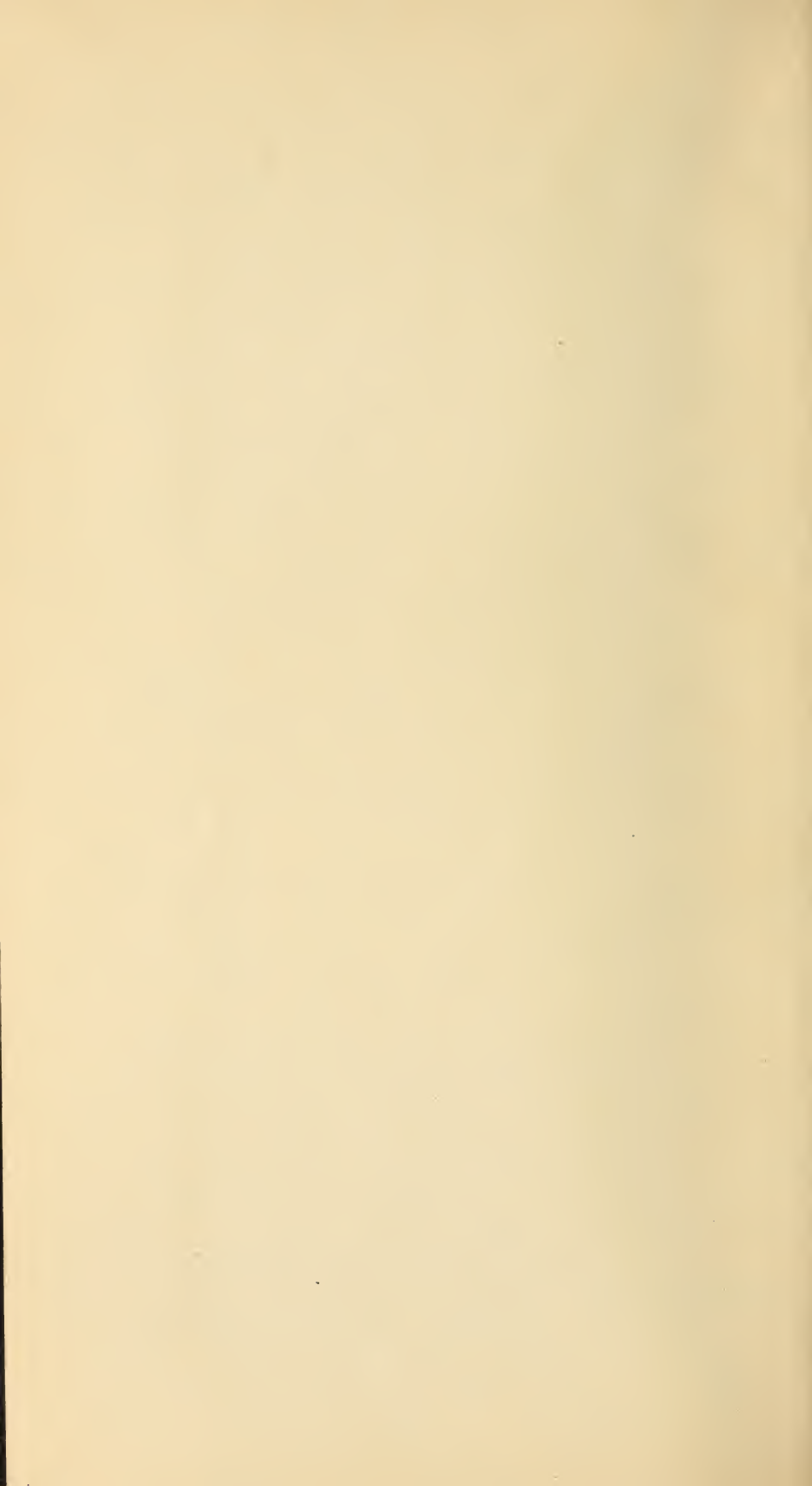
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"Grateful results of the war against the slaveholder's rebellion."

A SERMON

PREACHED AT A

UNION MEETING

OF THE

Baptist, Methodist-Episcopal,

AND

Congregational Societies,

IN

HINESBURGH, VT.,

ON THE DAY OF

STATE AND NATIONAL THANKSGIVING,

DECEMBER 7, 1865, By

Rev. C. E. FERRIN,

PASTOR OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Burlington :

FREE PRESS STEAM JOB PRINTING OFFICE,
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HINESBURGH, Vt., Dec. 14th, 1865.

REV. CLARK E. FERRIN,
Pastor of Congregational Church,

SIR :—

The citizens of this town who were privileged to listen to the able discourse delivered by you on the occasion of the late State and National Thanksgiving, have appointed the undersigned a committee, through whom to express to you their high appreciation of the merits of said discourse, and their thanks for its preparation with so much labor and careful study. Desiring that our fellow citizens who were not present may have an opportunity to peruse it, and believing that its general circulation will be promotive of a sound christian patriotism, they have instructed us to request that you will furnish a copy for publication.

Hoping that you will gratify us by an early compliance with this request,
We have the honor to remain,

Reverend Sir,

Your Obedient Servants,

ABEL E. LEAVENWORTH, W. B. VIELE, J. F. MILES, E. BEECHER.	}	Committee.
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HINESBURGH, Dec. 15th, 1865.

Messrs. Abel E. Leavenworth, W. B. Viele, J. F. Miles, and E. Beecher,

DEAR SIRS :

Your note expressing your appreciation of the discourse of Thanksgiving day, and requesting a copy for publication, was handed me last evening. The discourse was prepared amidst the labors of pastoral duty of which it is a part, and seems to me of less merit than your complimentary terms would indicate. It is perhaps a fair expression of my reading and thinking upon the great struggle through which we have just come, and of my hopeful expectations for the future ; and as such it properly belongs to those who have so long and kindly encouraged me to labor with them. Whether all we hope for will be realized, must depend on the "christian patriotism" with which we, as a nation, meet the grave tasks before us. And as you believe the perusal of the discourse may promote this patriotism, a copy is hereby cheerfully placed at your disposal.

Yours with much respect and affection,

C. E. FERRIN.

180260

A SERMON.

MAT. XIII ; 16, 17.

But blessed are your eyes, for they see ; and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them ; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Since the Advent of our Savior, there has hardly been so fit an occasion to appropriate the benediction of the text, as we have to-day ; nor has there been an occasion when so many people, and people scattered over so large a portion of the globe, responded to a call to give thanks and sing, as are to-day responding to the proclamation of thanksgiving issued by our President, Andrew Johnson.

Great events have been transpiring in the last five years. Great issues have hung upon them ; issues affecting the church as well as the State, the vital efficiency of a preached gospel upon the hearts of men, and the social and domestic relations of life in this country, and indirectly elsewhere. The whole human race has been interested in them. There is scarcely a square mile of inhabited land, or a square league of navigable water on the globe, where these events and these issues have not been talked over. This has been so not alone because of their intrinsic greatness, but also because their nature was such as to interest, and their determination will be seen to affect the rights and happiness, and the future condition, of men and nations to the earth's remotest boundary, and to the end of time.—Within these walls we are a little company, our voices weak, and

our hearts, it may be, not very highly and sacredly attuned to prayer and praise; but we occupy only a point of the earth, and we compose only a mite of the grand hosts that are now swelling the anthem which is wafting itself to heaven for the favor of God in crowning freedom's cause with victory, crushing into utter defeat our enemies in arms; and for filling our land at the same time with unheard of plenty, and all the conditions of immediate and future prosperity.

This re-united country of ours stretches from Cape Flattery on the N. W. to Eastport on the N. E., over fifty-eight degrees of longitude, nearly one-sixth part of the circumference of the whole earth; from Madawaska and the Lake of the Woods on the forty-ninth parallel of latitude, to Brownsville and Key West near the twenty fourth, more than one-fourth the distance between the Equator and the North Pole. It is now divided into forty-five States and Territories. The average size of each is three times as large as Greece, once so famous in the history of the world. Three of these average States would be larger than France, and two of them larger than the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In every one of these States and Territories are people who rejoice with us to-day; and over this vast region of the earth, almost numberless worshipers, many of them with a joy and gratitude for new found freedom, and the hope that they and their children may never more be subject to the passions and lash of a despotic master, are giving thanks with a zest which we never felt, perhaps never can feel till we see face to face Him who laid down his life to redeem us from sin. And more than these, countrymen of ours, in every clime and on every sea and in every nation under the whole heaven, join with us. And still more, the enslaved and oppressed citizens of other lands bow reverently with us in thanksgiving that republicanism and freedom have triumphed here, presaging their triumph ere long elsewhere.— And further still, the pure and generous in all the earth unite with us in grateful acknowledgements to Almighty God for the success of our cause, and in the hope of better days for the world hastened by our example, and through our influence.

To make our giving of thanks take a deeper hold upon our intelligent nature we will give our attention to some of the specific lessons taught in this great war against the slaveholders' rebellion, and some of the personal and national virtues which have obviously been promoted by it.

1. The war has taught us that the manhood of our people has not degenerated—neither in comparison with other nations, nor with that of our Fathers of former generations.

Some may consider this a small matter, but I do not consider it so. Work, physical, intellectual and moral, is the glory of man on earth. He is of little use here when he ceases to work or to stimulate or direct others in their work. And the amount and excellency of one's work will depend on his manhood. So the amount and value of the work a nation does for itself and the world will depend on the manhood of the people it rears. There is no enterprise that so calls out and tests the manhood of a people as large and protracted wars. Perhaps we may add there is nothing that so effectively promotes and strengthens manhood.

Now it was becoming pretty widely to be believed that Americans were degenerating. We were, it was supposed, falling below our forefathers and also below the people of other countries, in the three chief elements of manhood—muscular strength, power of intellect and personal courage. It has again and again been said, that, as a people, we were thin and nervous in body, quick yet shallow in mind, irritable, vain and irresolute in temper; but in no one of these qualities were we capable of endurance, or sustained force.

The degeneration of some families, changing from the laborious occupation of their poor fathers to the idle enjoyment of inherited property, and of others changing from rural country residences to those of the town or city, has given an occasion for this belief in some cases; but though it may be said of one family that it has degenerated, it may quite as truly be said of many others that they have not. Scientific statistics show that the average length of human life, and the number of persons who attain an extreme old age have increased.

The first efforts of the war at Bull Run, Big Bethel, Ball's

Bluff, and some movements in Missouri, Western Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, the Shenandoah Valley, and on the Peninsula of Virginia, seemed to confirm the belief of degeneracy. The London *Times*' correspondent wrote that in our conflicts of arms, there was nothing worthy to be called war, according to European precedents. There was neither strength of intellect or skill shown by our leaders, nor courage or endurance exhibited in our ranks. And many there were of us, who, to say the least, queried anxiously within ourselves whether it might not be so, and who looked with great solicitude and some doubt for the coming man, and the coming time, which should enable us to repel the contemptuous sneers of the old world, and to re-instate our confidence in ourselves.

But all this is now past, not to return in this generation or the next. The men, the times, so anxiously looked for, have come.—Probably the riding of Streight, Dahlgren, Wilson, Kilpatrick and Sheridan, was never surpassed by any cavalry. The march from the Rappahannock to Gettysburgh, under the hottest sun of Summer, and the three days' fighting that followed without rest to officers or men, battalion after battalion wheeling out of their weary march along road or field, over hills and through valleys, only to take position in the line of battle, dusty, sweaty, footsore and hungry, yet resolute for the bloody strife, has few if any equals in the annals of war, unless the rebel hosts, moving against them on the other side of the mountains, and on their return, did equal marching, and I suppose we must admit that they did. The persistent "hammering" shown at Pea Ridge and Stone River, and at Shiloh, Vicksburgh, Spottsylvania and Petersburg by Grant, were probably never equalled by martial hosts. The dashing prowess of Sheridan and his men in the last Shenandoah campaign, and in the winning race to Appomattox, surpasses the proudest exploits of Napoleon. The great march of Sherman, in the numbers employed, the open and defenceless nature of the country and exposure each mile to his enemies, the distance travelled from Chattanooga to Atlanta, Milledgeville, Savannah, Columbia, Fayetteville and Raleigh, the injury done to his enemy, and the little loss sustained by himself, stands alone in the histories of war that were ever written, or that are like-

ly to be in ages to come. While the grand moving circular bombardment and reduction of Port Royal by Commodore Dupont; the terrific fight and destruction of the whole fleet of rebel gunboats at Memphis; the forcing of his way up the Mississippi in spite of forts, batteries, chain cables, gunboats and boats offire, and his movement up the harbor of Mobile against the combined attack of forts and ships of war, himself lashed in the rigging of his flag ship, have placed the name of Farragut alongside of the greatest names of naval warfare, and all has shown that our marines are equal to our landmen in arms.

The trouble at first arose from the fact that we were in business to which we had not been trained. But once trained, our manhood is unchallenged. Yet this could not have been, save that we *had* the manhood, *to be trained*. And recorded facts, I believe, show that a larger proportion of our men of military age have, under rigid examination, proved sound, than in the countries of the old world; also that our soldiers measured more in height and around the chest, and weighed more. In these tests of physical manhood, as well as in the trials of courage and endurance in the field, the men from Vermont excelled, except that those from Michigan were a small fraction taller.

In diplomatists, statesmen and cabinet officers, we have found men equal to the greatest tasks that were ever undertaken. Adams and Dayton have shown themselves not inferior to old John Adams and Ben Franklin. Stanton and Welles have raised and organized more armies, built and employed more warships, steamboats and railroads, and provided more material of war, than any other two men—I don't know but I might say any other ten men who ever lived.—And their records and accounts for all this have been well nigh perfect for honesty, accuracy and systematic order. It is enough to say that our Senators and Congressmen, Governors and officers of the States, have been equal to the demands made upon them.

And the men who have been called by us, and in the providence of God, to preside over us, stand at least side by side with the greatest of the world's great men, and it is our peculiar joy to believe and

feel that they were especially great in moral goodness, and christian principle.

Abraham Lincoln was stricken down by an assassin's hand, in the moment of the nation's joy for the triumph to which he had just led us, but he has obtained a name that will never die, and a place in the hearts of our people, and of all people, that will be more dear as time and the destinies of nations roll on. Andrew Johnson bids fair to stand beside him in all that entitles a ruler to the grateful regard of those who love liberty, justice and intellectual power, magnanimity and benevolence. I will only further speak of these men by quoting a few remarks concerning them, made three weeks ago by an intelligent English nobleman to his countrymen, on returning from an extensive tour in this country. "There was a letter of Mr. Lincoln which he wished every one of them had read. * * * The character of that great man had never been appreciated in Europe. And when they come to read his letters, messages, and dispatches, * * * they will rise from the perusal with a profound appreciation of the man, and a thankfulness to God that such a man lived in such a time."

Of Andrew Johnson he said ; "He was a man who, if once they were brought into contact with him, they will never forget. He was one of nature's true nobility. He had not only talent and mind, but, thank God, a heart as well." I must add some words from a French Journal, the Paris "*Debats*:" "The man of zeal, patriotism and of rare good sense, the glorious and deeply regretted Abraham Lincoln."

It is peculiarly a cause of gratitude and encouragement to us, that both these men are the exclusive products of American soil, and American institutions. The men of the Revolution, Washington, Hancock, Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Henry, and Richard Henry Lee, were trained under a royal government. Their dignified bearing and courtly manners and culture were almost wholly English. But these men are American in every way ;—Republican in growth, size, manners, thought and feeling, in all their statemanship, impulses and aims. And can we not thank God that American Republicanism has proved itself capable to raise men, and men of such manhood? Amidst the many sad evils of war,—

and there are very many—the proof of these facts is worth something to us, and especially when connected with the other conceded fact, that such a war may tend to increase still more the manhood of a people.

2. The war has shown that we possess immense wealth, and more immense power to acquire it.

Hitherto it has been supposed that only a few of the old countries, England, France, Germany, Prussia and Austria, had accumulated great wealth, and could furnish resources for great wars. War has always made great demand for such resources, and especially since the arms and munitions of war have become so many and so important, and the soldiers' health and comfort have been better provided for. The expense of war has been greatly increased by the use of rifles, heavy cannon, railroads, steamboats and iron-clad ships. In the times of Napoleon it came to be a proverb that the heaviest purse would in the end win. This proverb was flaunted in our faces at the opening of the rebellion, while its agents were so successfully seizing the opportunity to get the sympathy of Europe, and to negotiate in London and Hamburg for loans, munitions, and ships of war. It was given out that our government could make no purchases except for gold, and that not one cent of loan could be had by us across the water. And of course, it was said, we could not carry on a long war without foreign money; that we were a nation of laborers, shopkeepers with small means, and politicians with none,

But all this has ceased. The refusal of foreigners to loan to us was one of the means of our success; our universal enterprise and industry, each person laboring for himself and gaining a little above his present and personal wants, was another. The government sought its supplies and money out of the universal industry, and small accumulations in every city, village, hamlet, farm and shop in the land. This stimulated to unwonted vigor all our industrial pursuits, to make something that the army needed, and to get the government's pay for it, and to loan from time to time the little that could be saved from the monthly income, and get the government's notes

for it. Thus we have proved the great wealth-producing power of the nation. More fortunes were found which could loan their hundreds of thousands of dollars than had before been suspected; immensely more that could spare a few thousands and hundreds; and still more, great numbers of the people, who hitherto had laid up little or nothing, found that they could save a monthly sum which would both aid the government, and be an accumulating investment for themselves.

By the use of machinery in shops and on farms, and by calling out some labor which had been unproductive, more was actually produced than before a million of soldiers had been drawn from productive labor to the field. Sums amounting to, I suppose, about five thousand millions of dollars have been collected by the government in five years, about two hundred and fifty dollars each for every man, woman and child in the loyal States. This has come, like the waters of the Mississippi, from a vast region of country.—Springs, rills, brooks and creeks, from every farm, mountain side, hill and valley, have contributed to swell the mighty flood that it is when all come together. About two-fifths of this has been paid, and three thousand millions remain as debt. But it is due to our own people, and in fact is to us individually not so much a debt as an investment on which we are to receive the interest annually, and the principal when we want it. It can hardly be said that the country is the poorer for it. And besides this, the stimulated industry and economy of the people have laid by about as much otherwise as usual. The returns of the Assessors of Vermont for this year give a large increase of personal property over that of 1860, though the large amount of U. S. bonds held by large numbers of our people was not counted in. According to the United States Agricultural Commissioner's estimates, the aggregate number of bushels of all the crops in the country this year exceeds that of any previous year, and that of 1864 by two hundred and fifteen millions, seventy-one thousand four hundred and eleven bushels. Besides this, buildings, farms, manufactories, trade, and recently commerce, have increased and improved. This is so over the whole loyal portion of the land. An item going the rounds of the papers says: "Nine thousand new

buildings were put up in Chicago the last year. Six of them cost one hundred thousand dollars each ; forty others cost thirty thousand dollars each. The total amount of capital employed in building during the year was six millions of dollars. The number of new churches was seven, of schools, two, of public halls four." Old cities, like Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, have grown, if not so fast as Chicago, yet faster than has been their previous growth. Sir Morton Peto, the railroad king, of Bristol, England, who has just returned home from an extensive tour of observation in this country, with reference to investment of money here, told his countrymen at a public meeting on the thirteenth of November last, " That Chicago had public buildings finer than any city he knew of. He did expect to find in America exhaustion, and society somewhat disarranged ; but he saw nothing of the kind. There was nothing throughout the whole of the great country that would have led him to suppose such a struggle had existed." It is an amazing fact, that throughout the mighty struggle, our educational, benevolent and religious contributions have not declined, but greatly increased. Never in the same portion of time have so many and so large sums been given to endow colleges and seminaries of learning, or so large taxes voted for common schools. Many millions were collected as gratuities for the soldiers. Large funds have been contributed for those who have been disabled, to support the families and educate the children of those who have fallen in field, hospital or prison. It is believed that the poor have not been forgotten, or permitted to suffer more than heretofore. Our churches have been sustained, usually without loss, often with gain, at home ; and never, in the history of our mission causes, have so large sums been given to carry the gospel abroad, and to the borders of our own land.

David, at the completion of his preparations for the great temple, devoutly thanked God in the congregation of the people, and with abundant sacrifices, that his people had been *able* to offer so willingly after this sort. Still more should we give thanks that the people of our beloved land have been able to offer so willingly after *this* sort ; and not less for the proofs it gives of ability and willingness to offer more largely in the future for every good work.

3. The war has shown that our government has cohesion and unity. With all its largeness of personal freedom and State rights, we are a nation—one, not many—a nation capable of concentrating and directing its utmost resources for a single object, and especially for preserving its own integrity, and for defence against enemies at home or abroad. This fact now established in respect to our government is of great value. Most of us have thought little upon it, and cannot well appreciate it. But to our ablest statesmen it has always been a matter of great anxiety, and statesmen of other countries have always predicted our fall when some exigency like this rebellion should come upon us. Republicanism, to the extent to which personal freedom, and the rights of suffrage especially in the free States, were granted, in the combining of so many States with varied interests into one nation, giving each a certain sovereignty and independent rights of its own, and yet welding it into a solid and inseparable unity with all the rest, was an experiment in the world—an experiment which foreign statesmen disbelieved in, many of our own doubted, and all watched with solicitude. This solicitude appears on almost every page of Washington's farewell address. I remember that Daniel Webster once proposed to let our territory west of the Rocky Mountains erect a national government for itself, on the ground that a country so extensive, of such large differences of climate, production and internal interests, could not be governed by one President and on Congress elected as ours are.

All this is over. It is an experiment no longer. A mightier trial than any monarchy ever had, and came whole and prosperous out of,—the determined, united, powerful revolt of one-third of its own people, carrying with them the sympathy of most other nations, and securing thence large resources of aid and comfort, this revolt and sympathy growing out of the roots of a form of despotism transplanted from Europe, and too long tolerated here—has come upon us and we have triumphed over it. The revolt has been overcome without a particle of compromise, and without departing from a single demand made by us at the beginning, but on the other hand, asserting step by step as we advanced, and in the end gaining many

things that would have been yielded by a large majority of our loyal people at the outset. The conquered rebels with one voice admit that all they started to get is lost, and that these points are settled : Negro slavery is to have no more guaranties from the National Constitution and laws, and their doctrine of State rights, the right of secession, is gone forever. Thus these two most fruitful sources of angry debate and bad blood in all our political canvassing and on the floors of legislation, are foreclosed, and forever. Thank God, we are one, and the ties that unite us are to be stronger than before.

4. The war has shown that our government has power. This is not so much a distinct point, as the result of the three preceding. We have manhood, wealth and unity. This gives the elements of power and facility to use it. This is no small matter. Power to attempt and to carry out any proper enterprise for the advancement of commercial, social, moral, intellectual or religious good at home, and to stand up for our rights, and to utter our voice among the nations of the earth, is something of no slight account for our well being and influence in the world. Hitherto we have been deficient here. Great questions and great enterprises we have approached irresolutely and handled softly. Any thing under the guise of religion, however repulsive and wicked, was almost certain of exemption from governmental interference. Rebellion has been preached for twenty years, and for the last ten years boldly and defiantly, in Southern pulpits ; and because these were supposed to be safe from governmental control, southern leaders made the pulpit the chief theatre whence the loyalty of the people was poisoned. Now it can shut them up if they abuse their privileges and endanger the Republic, and require the ministers of religion to take a loyal oath, or cease to practice their profession. Mormonism, with its degrading and disgusting polygamy, has been tolerated for a quarter of a century, because government hesitated to attempt any power over it, or because politicians feared loss of influence or position if they should meddle with it. There are signs that this will not be so much longer. Fit laws for dealing with intemperance, and the sale of intoxicating liquor were, after a long struggle, enacted ; but gov-

ernment officers have shrunk from enforcing them, till an army officer, Col. King, was chosen State Constable of Mass., and with soldierly courage, decision and promptness, proceeded to execute these laws, and the laws against Sabbath desecration, gambling and other crimes as well, which have been almost a dead letter on all our Statute books.

Among the nations of the world we have had little power or influence till now. Our rights were little respected, and our voice was unheeded. Under the guise of neutrality, France, England, Spain and German States encouraged and aided our rebels, with indecent and unblushing haste. We were brow beaten into submission in the case of the Trent. Our Monroe doctrine was spit upon by France in Mexico. Our Canada neighbors insulted us by harboring our enemies, and sending them over the border to plunder us, and cheering them as they came back with their spoil.

I think this is ended. We are feared where we were despised. Our principles, polity and sense of justice will hereafter control our action, and not our timidity. European writers already begin to talk of the *four* great powers of the earth, England, France, Russia and the United States, giving us a place along side of their proudest names. If we do not stand at the head soon, or even a grade above them in twenty five years, we shall advance much slower than we have in the past twenty five years.

As illustrating our power, and our consciousness of it, it is worthy of notice that the greatest municipal work, and the three greatest national works that have ever been attempted in this country, have been commenced during the progress of the war—the Chicago tunnel, the Pacific railroad, the Russian telegraph, the founding of an Agricultural College in each State of the Union. If these enterprises presage others to come, equal to the developing resources of the country, who can predict what we shall be in magnificence at home, and in influence among the nations, before some of you will leave the stage of active life!

It remains for us, while justly viewing these facts, which we need not and cannot ignore, to cultivate the spirit of meekness before the

God of Heaven, and the virtues of righteousness and benevolence, without which we cannot retain our prosperity. Let us hope and pray that this power may be wisely wielded in the interests of peaceful industry, moral and religious enterprise, and in pure justice towards all men. The omens are now favorable for this. The acknowledged possession of power is one of the means whereby we may avoid its harsh use. Consciousness of power enables one to speak gently, and to keep his forces out of sight, and at the same time command respect. Foreigners already begin to speak of us with a deference never before observed. We have disbanded a great army of nearly a million of men when we have still questions of the gravest importance at issue with each of the two greatest nations of the world. Let French royalty withdraw voluntarily and quietly from Mexico if he will ; let our claims for spoliation by the English Alabama and Shenandoah rest without blows or angry words, pressed only by just law and sound argument, till their justice is seen and confessed by all those who are interested in the peace of the nations and the security of commerce. It is surely a cause of thanksgiving to Almighty God that he has brought us up to where we are not to be subjected to the truckling schemes or fears of our own politicians, if it be so, nor to the insults of the proudest nations of the earth.

5. The war has advanced the ideas and aims of our people on the subject of education and free schools. These ideas were only *started in the right directions*, not carried into practice fully in this State ; not at all by the Nation, as such, only partially in any of the States, and not at all in the slave-holding States. As a matter of history, it is found that the States went into rebellion, in almost exact proportion as they neglected public education. In none of the insurgent States was there a free school system. In the semi-rebel States, if there were any system at all, it was imperfect and inoperative. In States where the system of free schools was the most effective, the loyalty of the people was the most staunch. It is now seen and admitted that an effective free school system in all the States would have saved us from rebellion. It is seen also that the five billion of dollars expended in the war, would have furnished a

fund, which, if put to interest at six per cent., would yield thirty dollars a year annually to the end of time for every child of school age now in the nation,—a sum large enough to furnish free tuition to every child up through the full grade of education, common school, academic and collegiate, with a large sum to spare.

The people are beginning to see that it is economical as well as a National and moral duty, to offer a free education to all those who are to become citizens of the Republic. A national system of education has already been proposed and finds advocates. The early Fathers of Vermont projected a grand system, a University for the State, a grammar school for each county, and a common school for every neighborhood, all free. Their poverty prevented their carrying it into actual practice, and the completion of it has been postponed. But the impulse of the war has brought us to make the common schools free for the first time. A movement has just been made in uniting the Agricultural College fund (now amounting to one hundred and forty-three thousand dollars) with the funds of our University, which will, we hope, facilitate the acquisition of other funds, so that we may, at no distant day, offer collegiate instruction free to every son of Vermont. Then, when we have provided for free academic instruction, and for a much needed and free College for young ladies, our system will be complete and noble beyond praise. Other States are pushing on in this direction. A majority of the Northern States are ahead of Vermont. The Middle States are acting. The loyal people of the South are looking at it. The Freedmen are struggling for schools, and liberal men from the North are helping them. Senator Sumner introduced on Monday of this week, the first day of the session of Congress, a resolution requiring in all the States late in rebellion, "The organization of an educational system for the equal benefit of all, without distinction of color or race." Surely the world moves. An impulse has been given to it by this war, grievous as are many of its fruits, and, in this matter of education, in the right direction. A mighty cause for thanksgiving to every one who loves his country for its intelligence, freedom and virtue, and would honor God by efforts to raise up freemen of intelligence and virtue to His glory.

6. The war has promoted the interests of religion, and exalted the sense of the honor due to it from our nation. This is a great proposition; and I am fully aware of its magnitude when I assert it; but on the most serious deliberation I believe it to be true. War is cruel, barbarous, and in its incidental influences it develops, and often fosters a great deal that is wicked and corrupt. But in other aspects, and broader influences, it may rebuke sin, correct great wrongs, develop individual piety, and shed upon religion increased honor in the sight of men.

Let me make a distinction here between the religion of the loyal and disloyal States, which I believe to exist, lest I be misunderstood. Every christian has felt that one of the saddest things connected with the war, and the hardest to be reconciled to his conscience and understood, was that, on each side, the same bible and God and Savior were believed in and invoked. I have no doubt that there has been and is much true piety at the South. It is founded on those teachings of the bible which have been kept free from other teachings interpreted to uphold slavery, and on the general teaching of religion down to a recent period. From the early history of our country down to twenty-five years ago there was no essential difference in the teaching of religion and the character of christian piety North and South.

Since about that time Southern religious teachers have sought to make the bible sustain slavery, and the effort has been carried farther than was intended—to defend many of the incidental wrongs and cruelties that cannot be separated from slavery. Thus it has permitted men in the habitual practice of cruelty and wrong to be enrolled as christian communicants, and to give reputation to religion. Political leaders, also, because the pulpit was a powerful means of educating the people, and because the government was not likely to interfere with its use for any purpose, to a large extent, subsidized it for their malign purposes, and from it “fired the Southern heart.” The earlier taught religion of the South, on which its earlier and genuine piety was founded, advocated sound theology, pure loyalty, the rights of men black as well as white, peace on earth and good will to men. That religion is honored by the war. By the destruction of

slavery, and the opening to the colored man churches, schools, the possibility to keep sacred the marriage relation, to know the meaning of the word home, and to enjoy the society of wife and children, the war has honored the old teaching of the bible at the South, and its almost universal teaching at the North. It has shown the God of the bible to be on the side of freedom, and equal rights, and domestic happiness ; or, rather, in the expressive language of Pres. Lincoln, it has shown the position of the North respecting the rights of the colored man, to be on God's side, for His side always prevails.

The war found us with a President who revered the name of God and bowed reverently before the Bible. All the public proclamations and messages he sent forth to the people acknowledged God as our Great Sovereign, and penitent submission before Him, and obedience to His will, as the proper posture of those who desired His blessing. As far as he could, consistently, there is no doubt he favored the promotion of Christian men to posts of responsible duty, and the labors of christian men for and in the army. No armies of the world were ever so largely furnished with bibles and religious reading, or had so much evangelical labor done in them. The soldiers of no army were ever drawn more largely from evangelical churches, and from social life where religion prevailed, or were followed by more numerous and fervent prayers for their spiritual good. As a consequence of this, with the blessing of God, we doubt not, no soldiers ever returned from so long service in the field, with morals and religion less impaired. I think we here can say that *our* soldiers have returned to us, with scarcely an exception, no worse than they went away ; that many of them show a nobler manhood, and better moral or christian character, and give promise of a more useful citizenship. Testimony like this has been borne by many ministers and christian persons in all parts of the land.

Christian piety has not receded in our country. Revivals have occurred with usual frequency and in many places, and there are indications of greater good of this kind in the near future. Our churches have sustained themselves, not only without loss, but with rather

more than the usual increase. Our young men in training for the ministry, with the return of peace, have returned to their studies, so that the colleges and seminaries are now, in the first year of peace, filled to nearly or quite their usual number before the war. Our missionary efforts have not been relaxed at all, or diminished in amount, and now are projected on a much larger scale than ever.—The seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars proposed by the Congregationalists is only excelled by the million dollars proposed by the Methodists, and this only for Home Missionary purposes—and I know not how much, by Baptists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians. And all evangelical churches give evidence that they are now preparing with more than their wonted zeal and faith, and hope for the dews of Heavenly Grace, and the sunshine of the Holy Spirit, to give us a great spiritual growth in numbers and in graces. This *we* will all say to-day is what *we* need, and for this we will pray.—Surely, therefore, for these religious fruits of our great struggle, we will give thanks and sing.

7. This enumeration of results to be grateful for will not be complete unless is included that which seems chiefest. Slavery was at the bottom of nearly all our past political troubles, and it was more and more threatening us in the future. The result of the war has secured its downfall in this country, and hastened on its end in all the world. Thus we hope to avert the displeasure of God, and secure his more precious favor in the future. And surely He has called us to atone for our sins with great and sore sacrifices.

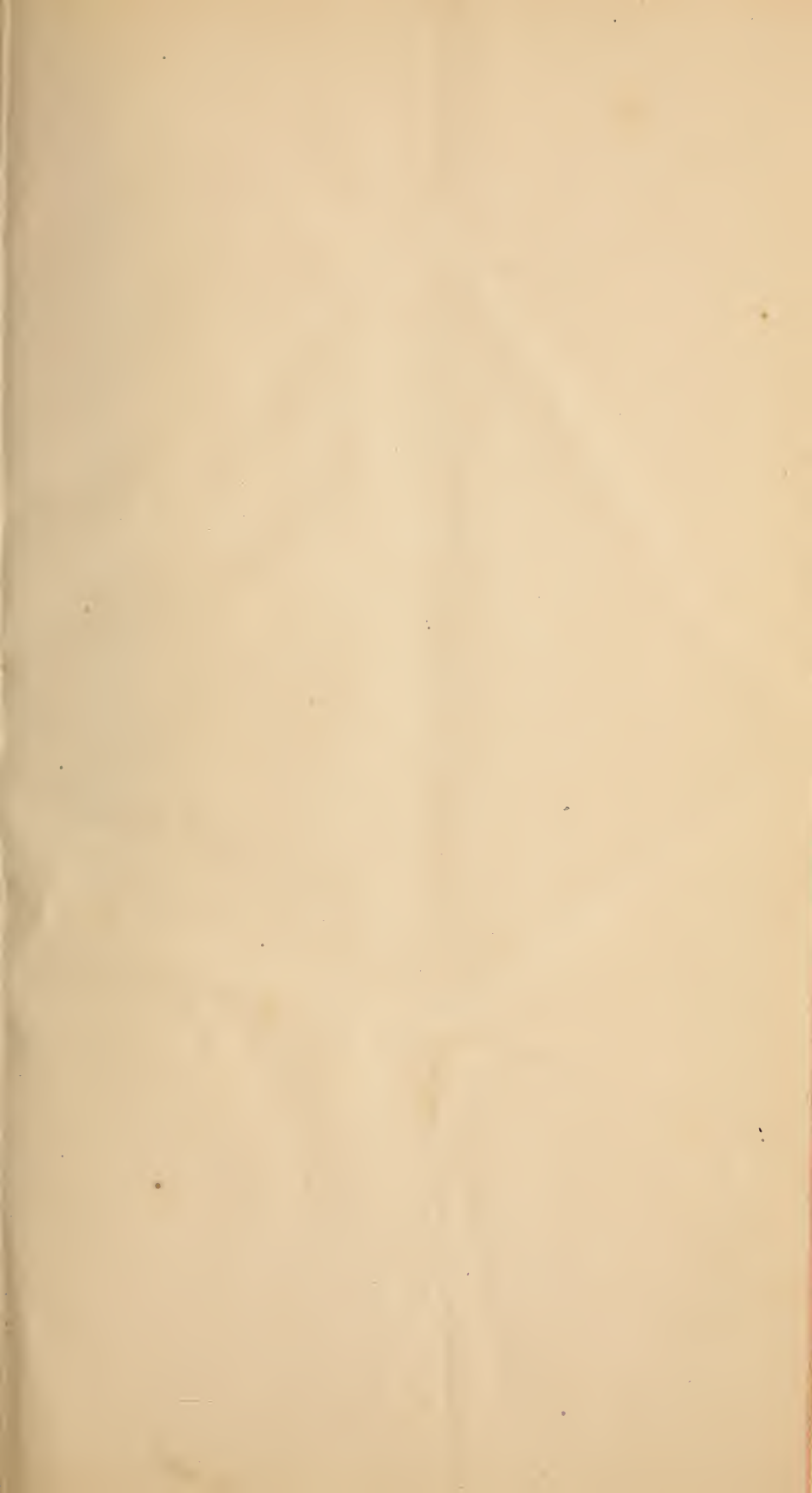
Not that every slave is now actually in the secure possession of all his sacred rights of person, property, social well being, and domestic happiness. Not that our Southern brethren have changed their minds, or desires, or passions. We have the clearest reason to know that they have not, and that they will still hold the colored man in bondage if they can; and if they cannot, they will still hold him in a condition as subordinate to themselves as possible. But at least this Republic has started on the road to freedom. Thousands once slaves are now put beyond any power of their former masters. No fugitive slave will ever again be demanded or returned under

National laws. Mason and Dixon's line has moved Southward, and no man can now find where it lies. The spell is broken that shut the lips and restrained the actions of liberty-loving men, that stopped boats and mail bags on their journey southward, if perchance they might talk of sweet freedom to men of sable skin. The power is broken that forbid instruction and schools to the colored man. The haughty despotism that came up from the plantations, and claimed to rule in Congress, and to manage the executive power of our country, to dictate the platforms of national political parties, and to arrange their slates, is crushed utterly. Those lords that so recently and insolently went out, declaring they *will never more* live with us, now come back begging for a place in our councils, and the crumbs falling from the table of those they called mudsills and beneath their slaves. The majority of States needed to confirm the Constitutional Amendment forever forbidding slavery, is just this day secured. The end draweth near.

We have only to remain firmly, but kindly, holding the power which the war they invoked and begun has given us, using it righteously towards the defiant, with christian magnanimity towards the repentant and submissive, with liberal and fraternal love towards those so long held in bondage, and American slavery will soon be known no more save in history.

The work of war is done. Now is upon us the work of benevolence and religion. Those whose words for the slave have been many and earnest, now have the opportunity to show their sincerity and heart value. Words are cheap and easy to bestow. Now the same cause needs money and labor, and sacrifice, and genuine sympathy, and heart moving philanthropy, to raise up to a worthy manhood those from whom the shock of war has burst the chains. This will be a great work, a long work, one that will test our patience, our liberality, and our genuine regard for the colored man; and before it is well done, I suppose it may test our faith in the equality and the virtue of man. But through the good providence of God the time has come when we can do all that our hearts move us to for our brethren so long held in bondage. We have looked for this,

and prayed for it, and it has come, though not altogether as we were expecting. Surely may we all, and especially those who have long *worked* as well as prayed for the abolition of slavery, listen with joy and praise to the Great Master, fulfilling in these recent works of His the ancient words, and by both works and words saying to us to-day : “ Blessed are your eyes, for they see : and your ears, for they hear. For verily, I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them ; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.”







Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process.
Neutralizing agent: Magnesium Oxide
Treatment Date: May 2010

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